Denali Commission Award #01486-01 Environmentally Threatened Community Initiative, Phase 2. Task Order #2, Statewide Threat Assessment Program Project

Quarterly Progress Report; July 2018 – September 2018

Summary

This project is a collaborative effort between the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), and the US Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District (USACE). USACE is responsible for identifying the risk from flooding and erosion. However, new work carried out by USACE will focus primarily upon flooding, because erosion was considered extensively in the 2009 Baseline Erosion Assessment. UAF, with assistance from CRREL, is responsible for evaluating the risk from thawing permafrost, as well as integrating the individual risks from coastal/riverine erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation into a normalized, overall hazard index for each rural Alaska community with a year-round population greater than 20 (approximately 230 locations).

Progress This Quarter, July 2018 – September 2018

The project is in the final phases of completion. UAF team members Billy Connor and Bill Schnabel provided face-to-face and web-broadcast presentations of preliminary project results on September 13th (Anchorage) and September 20th (Bethel). Both meetings were organized, hosted, and attended by Don Antrobus. A third, as yet unscheduled, web-based presentation is under consideration following the submission of the final report.

Future Work

USACE requested and received a three-month no-cost extension on the period of performance. Currently, UAF is working with CRREL and USACE to assemble and submit a draft report to Denali Commission. Following comments provided by Denali Commission, the team plans to finalize the draft report and provide all deliverables by the new project end date, December 31, 2018.